

September 19, 1960

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Dear Bob:

We are very glad to see that you are getting to be well settled at Canberra and to start chewing into your research program. Thanks for sending back the yeast material and including the other stuff with it. I don't understand what you said about not being able to grow *Rhizobium* - is this really a problem?

I particularly enjoyed your succinct and accurate comments on some of the people you heard at the Genetics Society Meeting.

We were, of course, very much distressed to hear about Mari's staying in Melbourne; except to continue to wish you well, is there anything else that we could do or say?

Gus is continuing to do some interesting work but it would be difficult to summarize in a moment and none of it has given any critical decision on the selection theory. He has finally come to a concordance with Mel Cohn on the existence of double-producing cells but these are rather rare and in any case, do not furnish a critical test. A fair part of the lab effort here now is devoted to DNA transformation in *Bacillus subtilis* and this is going along beautifully, with a linkage system being built up around the histidine-tryptophane complex. We are spending most of our effort to add an exhaustive study of this particular linkage group. I don't know what could have happened with the reprints but I will see that you get a full new set. I'm not sure that we have really published very much on the transfer of F in micromanipulation experiments and perhaps this is why you have not seen it. It is just mentioned in the abstract for the Stockholm Symposium and also in the Harvey Lecture. Even if they should be duplicates, I will send these along.

The Rubbos were through here a few weeks ago, as you probably know, and it was a delight to see them again. He will never cease to amaze me.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

JL/jh
Enc.